

NIHR INSIGHT Programme for Yorkshire and Humber Chairs Report Applications for Academic Year 2024/2025

Introduction

The NIHR INSIGHT Programme for Yorkshire and Humber (Y&H) supports the training of early career health, care and public health professionals (excluding doctors and dentists) with aspirations of undertaking a clinical academic career. The INSIGHT Programme offers fully funded research masters training, including funding for backfill/stipend.

Y&H INSIGHT Round 1 (2024)

The INSIGHT Programme applications launched on 10th July 2024 and closed on 31st July 2024. 74 applications were received, and 20 funded places were awarded.

Observations and Advice for Prospective Applicants

The Selection Committee agreed that Round 1 of the programme was highly competitive, and the overall number and quality of applications was seen as a positive reflection of the increasing support and awareness of healthcare professional clinical academic careers.

The Selection Committee have made observations of the general strengths and weaknesses of the Round 1 applications and discussed areas that future applicants should consider to strengthen their applications. These are summarised below.

Date of registration

Applicants whose registration date was beyond the 5-year cut-off (accommodating part-time working and career breaks) were not eligible..

Choice of Masters programme

Applicants were asked to choose which Masters programme they preferred, and to provide a reason for this choice. Applicants who provided a detailed description of their chosen programme and how this aligned with their aspirations were scored more favourably.

Motivation and Research Experience

Applicants were asked to explain why they are applying for this opportunity and describe how taking part in this programme will impact their professional development and why they are applying for this now. Applicants who expressed ambition of becoming a clinical academic leading their own research were scored favourably. Applicants who appeared to be applying for masters funding with plans to teach, or demonstrated no vision towards a clinical academic career were scored less favourably.

Please describe any previous experience in research

Applicants were asked to describe any previous experience in research, what their goals are in undertaking the Masters programme, how the course will contribute to their professional development and what they hope to do after they complete the

programme. Applicants describing any level of research experience were scored more favourably. Applicants who described how the programme would enhance their professional development and described their clinical academic career aspirations were scored favourably.

Re-applications

If an applicant has applied previously for INSIGHT funding, they should ensure that the above observations are addressed in their re-application, where relevant and appropriate.